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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT



HEALTH REPORT

1961

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. E. MALE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1961

EISTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members of the Council
(1961 - 1962)

Chairman

A. ARMSTRONG, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

R.C. CRUMP

Members

R.A. ATKINSON
T. COOK
W.A.E. CRICK
E.W.R. CUNNINGHAM
L.S.H. HEADLEY
A.J. JAFFE
Mrs F.M. MURRAY
G. SATTIN
V.E. SMART
R. STREATHER
E.J.J. TREEVES
N.C. WARD
G. WILKINS

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Borehamwood

To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my 21st Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1961.

There have been no epidemics of significance in the district during the year. The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified was 14 compared with 17, 22, 18, 18, and 13 respectively in the years 1960 to 1956 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital.

Steady progress continues to be made in the improvement of environmental health conditions. The first Smoke Control Area is in operation and has not resulted in any serious difficulty. The necessary preliminary inspection of the proposed No. 2 Smoke Control Area was carried out during the year.

The provision of sufficient adequate housing accommodation is causing some concern and the next few years are certain to be increasingly difficult as many more young couples apply for housing. It may safely be said that the provision of satisfactory housing is one of the most important requirements of a healthy community.

It gives me great pleasure, once again, to record my thanks to the Council for their support and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area		8,339 acres
Population (mid 1961 - Registrar General's Estimate)		29,120
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1961)		
Elstree	6,878	
Shenley	471	
Ridge	80	7.429
Rateable Value (1st April 1962)		£521,906
Estimate product of a penny rate (1st April 1962)		£2,165

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Births</u>	Total	M	F
Live Births	473	225	248
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	16.2		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.6		
Still-births	3	2	1
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births	6.3		
Total live and still-births	476	227	249
<u>Infant deaths</u> (Deaths under 1 year)	5	3	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.6		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	8.9		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	45.5		
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	10.5		
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week) per 1,000 total live births	10.5		
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and still-births)	16.8		
<u>Maternal deaths</u> (including abortion)	Nil		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil		

<u>DEATHS - Causes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases	0	1	1
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms	23	19	42
Leukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	6	20	26
Heart Diseases	48	58	106
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	7	16
Influenza	1	10	11
Pneumonia	11	22	33
Bronchitis	7	3	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	1	1
Congenital Malformations	0	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	13	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	0	2
Other Accidents	4	4	8
Suicide	5	0	5
Totals	134	166	300

Note: In considering the Death Rate, it should be observed that 186 deaths occurred of patients in Shenley Hospital and that they would not normally have resided in the district. The Death Rate excluding the hospital patients was 4.2

Elstree R.D.C.

County of Hertford England & Wales

Actual Standardised

Birth Rate	16.2	14.6*	18.0	17.4
Death Rate	10.3	10.4*	9.5	12.0

* Actual rate x Comparability Factor to give Standardised Rate

NATURAL DRAINAGE AND GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

The direction of the natural drainage is roughly South-East to North-West in the South-West part, and Easterly in the Eastern part of the district. In the Southern part, comprising mainly the residential and industrial area of Borehamwood, Tykes Water in the West and the Rowley Lane stream in the East, discharge into the Thames via the River Colne and into the River Lee respectively. In addition, there is in the North-East part of the area, an outfall to the Lee via the Swallow Holes. These are the result of fissures in the chalk, the Mimms Brook disappearing below ground at North Mimms, beyond the North Eastern boundary of the district.

The Southern half of the district, i.e. south of Green Street, is mainly London Clay to a depth of 200-350 feet. North of this point, extending into Shenley and flanked by London Clay, the subsoil is pebble gravel, with chalk and glacial gravel beyond. At the extreme North of the district, there is boulder clay on the East, with some alluvium and valley gravel on the West.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. Elstree parish includes Borehamwood which since 1947 has developed from a village into a town of over 20,000 inhabitants. Its large modern factories, film studios and television studios provide employment for residents in the area and many who travel into the town daily from London and other places.

The London Midland Region Railway provides a fast and frequent service into London. Many residents live here in the green belt and travel to work daily by train, bus or private transport.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health
One Chief and two District Public Health Inspectors
(All whole-time, qualified Public Health Inspectors
and Meat and Food Inspectors).

The General Purposes Committee deals with all matters relating to Public Health. They meet on the second Monday in each month and receive the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Coppetts Wood Isolation Hospital, Muswell Hill and the West Hendon Hospital. The ambulance for non-infectious cases, provided by the Herts County Council, is stationed at the Fire Station, Elstree Way and is manned by the Herts Ambulance Brigade staff. If this service is not available, ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

The area has six whole-time Health Visitors, three District Nurses employed on general nursing, three midwives and one nurse employed part-time on general nursing.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

(i) Elstree Way, Borehamwood.

Ante-Natal: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 2 p.m.
Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare: Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Family Planning: Fridays 2.15 to 3.15 p.m.

Speech Therapy: Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon
2 to 4.30 p.m.

Ophthalmic: Wednesdays 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Orthoptic: Mondays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon
2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation:
Fridays 10 to 11 a.m.

*School Dental Clinic:

*Orthodontic: Tuesdays 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Alternate Saturday mornings.

(ii) Health Annexe, Greenacres School, Borehamwood

Ante-Natal: Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Infant Welfare: Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

*Speech Therapy:

*School Dental Clinic:

(iii) Health Annexe, Saffron Green School, Borehamwood

Infant Welfare: Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

*School Dental Clinic:

*Speech Therapy:

(iv) Church Hall, Shenley

Infant Welfare & Immunisation:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month 2 to 4 p.m.

* Treatment by appointment only

(e) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet General Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 490 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:-

Ante-Natal	Gynaecological	Physical medicine
Dental	Medical	Post-Natal
Dermatological	Neurology	Psychiatric
Chiropody	Ophthalmic	Radiotherapy
Ear, nose & throat	Orthopaedic	Sub-Fertility (Males)
Geriatric	Paediatric	Surgical
	Tuberculosis	

St. Stephens Hospital

Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds

Victoria Hospital, Wood Street, Barnet

Maternity Hospital with complement of: 48 maternity beds and 48 cots.

Clare Hospital, South Mimms

Chest Hospital with complement of 334 beds

Child Guidance Clinic, Orchard Gate, Hill End, St. Albans

Child Guidance service: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Patients seen by appointment only)

St. Albans City Hospital, Normandy Road, St. Albans

St. Albans City Hospital, Church Crescent, St. Albans

Venereal Diseases: Males Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Bushey & District Hospital, Bushey.

General Hospital with complement of 37 beds.

Coppetts Wood Hospital, London, N.20 (Telephone TUDor 9792)

Cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Rural District has 3 parishes, Elstree, Shenley and Ridge.

The parish of Ridge and a small part of Elstree parish is supplied with water by the Lee Valley Water Company.

The parish of Shenley and the rest of Elstree parish is supplied with water by the Colne Valley Water Company.

I am indebted to the above-mentioned companies for the following information regarding the water supplied to the district.

1. The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. 659 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.

2964 samples of supply water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.

377 samples of raw water were examined chemically. The results were variable.

590 samples of supply water were examined chemically. The results were very satisfactory.

3. Before distribution the supply water is chlorinated and partially dechlorinated. Part of the supply water is also filtered and most of it is submitted to softening.

4. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.

5. All the houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of one isolated house in the parish of Ridge which has a water supply from a private well.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main centres of population in the district are served by drains connected to the trunk sewer of the South-West Herts Main Drainage Authority, the sewage being treated at Rickmansworth. There are small treatment works within the district at Catherine Bourne and Bell Lane, Shenley and at Watford Road, Elstree.

55 private septic tank disposal units are used for sewage treatment at farms and isolated dwellings.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of houses provided only with pail closets has steadily decreased, but there are still 20 houses with these primitive arrangements.

There are also 137 caravans used as permanent homes within the district. 115 are on multiple caravan sites and have the use of water closets in communal blocks although these are in some instances, over 160 yards from the caravan. Each caravan usually has a chemical closet, the contents of which are emptied into the drainage system.

With one exception, the 22 caravans stationed on individual sites have no proper drainage facilities. Every effort is being made to improve these conditions by using the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected weekly from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping on the site of the disused sewage works at Medburn Farm, Elstree and at Moor Mills, Park Street, Nr. St. Albans.

During the year, the use of paper sacks for domestic refuse collection was tried at 500 houses and proved successful. The Council have decided to extend the scheme and in eighteen months it is anticipated that dustbins will no longer be in use in this area. The reduction in flies, dust, noise, and the improved working conditions for the refuse collectors, makes this a very worthwhile improvement.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Normal routine inspections were carried out at these premises during the year. No statutory action was taken.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are no public swimming pools in the Elstree Rural District.

CLEAN AIR

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air and is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council.

The Elstree No. 1 Smoke Control Area, extending over 260 acres and including 1,500 houses, 40 factories and several other buildings has been operative for two winters and has functioned satisfactorily. Progress is being made on the next area and in due course the whole of Borehamwood will be covered by Smoke Control Orders.

RODENT CONTROL

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The Council operate a free service for domestic premises but a charge is made for rodent control treatment carried out to business and other premises.

During the year, investigation was carried out at 231 properties for the purpose of rodent control. Of these, 118 were found to be infested with rats and 47 infested with mice. These were subsequently treated by the local authority.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958
HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Owners of dwellings may obtain grants up to half the cost of improving them or converting buildings into housing accommodation.

A Standard Grant of £155 is payable for the provision of a bath or shower, wash-hand basin, hot water supply, water closet and food storage facilities.

A grant up to £400 may be made at the discretion of the local authority for carrying out more extensive improvements.

There are certain conditions which must be observed for a period of ten years after a grant is made, but the owner is able to increase the rent by $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of his expenditure on improvements. At the discretion of the local authority, an even higher rent may be charged.

During the year, 4 applications were received for Discretionary Grants toward the improvement of houses in the district. Of these, 2 applications were approved.

4 applications were received for Standard Grants. All were approved.

The total amount of the grants made was £728.

RENT ACT 1957

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1961.

Section D
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:

Disease	Total Notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital							Total deaths		
Age Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age Unknown	Totals
Scarlet Fever		17									17
Diphtheria		1									1
Puerperal Pyrexia		1									1
Erysipelas		1									1
Measles	549										549
Whooping Cough	33										33
Pneumonia	9										9
Dysentery	3										3
Poliomyelitis	1										1
Food Poisoning	25										25
Scarlet Fever		2	1	2	2	10	2				
Diphtheria											
Puerperal Pyrexia											
Erysipelas											
Measles	49	67	79	77	248	12	1	1	1		549
Whooping Cough	2	4	3	1	15	4					33
Pneumonia	1				1		1	1	7		9
Dysentery							1	1	1		3
Poliomyelitis						3	4	2	13		1
Food Poisoning		1	1	1							25

TUBERCULOSIS - New cases and mortality during 1961

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5								
5 to 14								
15 to 24								
25 to 44	3	1	1	1				
45 to 64	2	1		3				
65 & over		1					1	
Age unknown								
*Totals	5	4	1	4	-	-	1	-

*Not including patients resident in Shenley Mental Hospital.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTOR

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1960.

The routine inspection of premises has been carried out more frequently since the Council appointed another District Public Health Inspector and further progress has been made particularly on smoke control.

The implementation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, has resulted in improvements being carried out at one of the three multiple sites in the district. It is hoped that a municipal caravan site will be provided in the near future to provide satisfactory facilities for caravans at present on isolated sites. Legal action had to be taken during the year in respect of one caravan which was abandoned in a country lane by its owner. A considerable amount of time was spent in trying to trace the owner but eventually the vehicle and its contents were destroyed by order of the Magistrates.

I am pleased to record my thanks to the Council for their support, and to the staff of the Public Health Department for their willing co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

G.E.MALE

Chief Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

A total of 2092 visits and inspections was made during the year to all types of premises. 467 inspections of food-preparing establishments were carried out.

110 Informal Notices were served during the year requiring the repair or remedy of defects.

STATUTORY NOTICES

Nature of Defects	Statute	No. of Notices Served	No. of houses or premises affected
Nuisances	Sec. 93 Public Health Act 1936	3	3
Water Closet	Sec. 45 Public Health Act 1936	1	1

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Provision of Sanitary Conveniences for agricultural workers

As a result of informal action, sanitary accommodation was provided for the workers at one farm.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS
OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed				75	220	
Number inspected				75	220	
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcases condemned				1	7	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				11	16	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci				16.0	10.4	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcases condemned				Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				Nil	5	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis				Nil	2.0	
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration				Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned				Nil	Nil	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955
Milk and Dairies Regulations

The following table gives particulars of milk samples taken during the year from purveyors within the district. All samples satisfied the prescribed tests as required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Total No. of Samples	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Pasteurised
21	9	12

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT)
REGULATIONS 1959

Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, there are only two registrations in the district of premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and 43 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

14 samples were taken during the year of which 4 were from vendors trading ice-cream manufactured outside the district, and the remainder from the manufacturers within the district. The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows:-

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
13	-	-	1

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

It will be seen that 92.9 per cent of samples were Grade 1.

FOOD PREMISES

There are 178 premises in the district where food is prepared for sale, or sold, or offered or exposed for sale to the public.

The following table gives a summary of the type of food premises in the area.

General provision shops	35	Butchers shops	15
Confectioners (Sweets etc.)	14	Greengrocers	13
Confectioners (Bakers)	5	Fishmongers	5
Ice cream manufacturers	2	Bakehouses	4
Cafes and Restaurants	13	Factory Canteens	18
Building site canteens	1	School Canteens	17
Licensed Premises	21	Stalls	3
Chemists	6	Off Licences	7

All the above-mentioned premises were inspected during the year.

19 notices were served requiring necessary works to be carried out in food premises.

FOOD & DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

The Hertfordshire County Council are responsible for sampling Food and Drugs in this district and I am indebted to Mr.E.H.Griffiths, Divisional Inspector, Weights & Measures Department for the following information regarding samples taken in the Elstree Rural District during 1961:-

Milk Samples	36 - All genuine
Samples other than Milk	6. Genuine 1 Not Genuine

Details of sample which was not genuine:

Tinned stewed steak contained 10% gristle and skin. This product was tinned in a neighbouring County and assistance in the investigation into the product was given by their Weights and Measures Department. On finding that the sample we had taken was not typical of the product, legal proceedings were not taken.

Foreign Bodies in Foodstuffs:

We received one complaint from a school about the presence of a corroded milk bottle top at the bottom of a bottle of school milk. The Public Analyst examined this cap and found that the corrosion was due to the caustic soda cleansing solution used in the dairy. The cap was perfectly sterile, and the substance of the milk was unchanged. This foreign body, although undesirable was an example of the fact that its presence did not necessarily make the milk "not of the nature, substance or quality demanded". It was, of course, very similar to the circumstances which lead to the decision in Edwards v Llaethdy Merion Ltd. The occurrence was, however, strongly taken up with the dairy concerned.

Another complaint by a member of the public concerned a piece of wood in a bottle of pickle. This wood was identified as a chip from a barrel in which pickle ingredients are stored. We were satisfied that ordinarily the precautions taken at the factory were such that such foreign bodies would be detected and excluded. The manufacturer was sent a letter of caution.

In addition to the information given above, it must be borne in mind that the County Council's Inspector also takes samples in neighbouring rural district - often of food which is being sold also within this district - and thereby adds to the protection of the consumers in the Elstree Rural District.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December 1961

	Type of Property				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses inc. Council Houses	(3) All other Business Premises)	(4) Total of cols 1, & 3	
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	7,429	1,475	9,910	41
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	4	142	28	174	6
(b) Survey under the Act	2	55	-	57	-
(c) Otherwise	6	994	1,061	2,061	37
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
Rats (Major)	1	-	-	1	-
Rats (Minor)	2	91	24	117	4
Mice (Major)	-	-	-	-	-
Mice (Minor)	2	34	11	47	-
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A.	5	125	35	165	4

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1961

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	5	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	95	93	4	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	111	98	4	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

		Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
Found	Remedied	Referred			
		To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

Outworkers: Number of Outworkers in the district during the year was 28
 Nature of Work: Making of wearing apparel.

